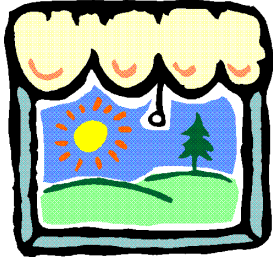


# RESIDENT GUIDE



A guide to local government services,  
community resources,  
and general information  
for residents of Wilbraham.

**Town of Wilbraham**  
240 Springfield Street  
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM**  
240 Springfield Street  
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Frank A. Everton  
James E. Thompson  
Kevin J. Moriarty



**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

William J. Fogarty  
Phone: (413) 596-2805  
FAX: (413) 596-9256

Dear Wilbraham Resident,

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Wilbraham is pleased to present you with a guide to Wilbraham's government services, community resources, and general information. We are committed to making Wilbraham an outstanding community in which to live, and to offering a high level of public and community service.

Wilbraham's public education system sets standards for other school districts and our belief in the importance of sound education for our children is demonstrated in the support we offer our regional school district.

Our central location and rural setting makes Wilbraham an excellent residential choice. A strong sense of history and community is kept alive with the help of our traditional Open Town Meeting form of government. We welcome citizen participation and thank all residents for their active involvement in the town's affairs.

Please feel free to contact the Board of Selectmen's Office with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Frank A. Everton, Chairman

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James E. Thompson

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Kevin J. Moriarty

# **TOWN OF WILBRAHAM RESIDENT GUIDE**

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## WELCOME TO WILBRAHAM

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The Town of Wilbraham offers its residents a beautiful rural setting with easy access to downtown Springfield. During its years of development as a residential suburb adjacent to Springfield, Wilbraham has maintained a strong sense of community and has preserved large tracts of open space. The town boasts several working farms, and each year hosts the Wilbraham Peach Festival, which celebrates the numerous fruit orchards that dot the landscape. The Wilbraham and Monson Academy, a private residential college preparatory school, maintains a large and stately campus in the center of town.

The town has long prided itself on its ability to plan growth and provide an excellent level of public service. The town has many beautiful residential neighborhoods and an outstanding public education system. Looking to the future, town officials are now focusing their efforts on the development of the Boston Road Commercial Corridor, which will allow the community to improve its commercial tax base and enhance community services.

Population:	13,141	Total Area:	22 square miles
Miles of Roads:	120	Number of Households:	4,733

### TOWN OFFICE LOCATIONS

Town Office Building	240 Springfield Street
Fire Department	2770 Boston Road
Police Department	16 Main Street
Public Works (Engineering, Highway, Sewer & Water Departments)	2721 Boston Road
Council on aging	88 Stony Hill Road
Senior Center/Pines Community Center	88 Stony Hill Road
Disposal and Recycling Center	2720 Boston Road
Soule Road School	300 Soule Road
Wilbraham Middle School	466 Stony Hill Road
Memorial School	310 Main Street
Mile Tree School	625 Main Street
Minnechaug Regional High School	621 Main Street
School Superintendent Office's	621 Main Street
Public Library	2 Crane Park Drive
Public Access Cable(Little Red School House)	26 Springfield Street
Stony Hill School	675 Stony Hill Road
Old Meeting House	450 Main Street

## **TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

The Town Office Building is home to several departments listed below which have valuable materials and information available for residents. Telephone listings follow on the next page.

**For general information and questions contact the Selectmen's Office in the Town Office Building (596-8111).**

### **Selectmen's Office**

- ◆ Annual Town Report
- ◆ Permits & License Information
- ◆ Community Profile
- ◆ Town Committees & Meetings
- ◆ Latest news releases

### **Town Clerk's Office**

- ◆ Voter Registration & Elections
- ◆ Dog Licenses
- ◆ Census
- ◆ Business Registration
- ◆ Town By-Laws
- ◆ Hunting & Fishing Information
- ◆ Posted Meetings
- ◆ Marriage Licenses & Vital Records

### **Treasurer/Collector's Office**

- ◆ All town bills paid in this office
- ◆ Recycling & Solid Waste Information
- ◆ Trash Bag Disposal Stickers

### **Assessors Office**

- ◆ Property & Automobile Valuations
- ◆ Tax Abatements
- ◆ Deed & Property Ownership Information

### **Public Works Department**

- ◆ Town Water & Sewer Information
- ◆ Septic System Information (Title V)
- ◆ Highway Maintenance

### **Building Department**

- ◆ Construction Permits
- ◆ Inspections
- ◆ Electric, Plumbing & Gas
- ◆ Zoning Questions

### **Recreation Office**

- ◆ Upcoming Programs & Activities

### **Tobacco Control Program**

- ◆ Tobacco Control Enforcement
- ◆ Smoking Cessation Services

### **Planning Department**

- ◆ Planning & Economic Development Information

### **Lobby**

- ◆ Community Information & Literature

## **TOWN GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE NUMBER**

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**Fire, Police, Ambulance  
EMERGENCY 911  
Rape/Sexual Assault 596-2100**

Accounting	596-2800
Ambulance - Business	596-2273
Assessors	596-2817
Board of Appeals (Zoning)	596-8111
Building Department (Inspections)	596-2804
Conservation Commission	596-8111
Council on Aging (Senior Center)	543-8201
Dog Officer/Animal Control	596-2006
Fire Department (Business)	596-3122
Housing Authority (Miles Morgan)	596-1700
Library	596-6141
Planning and Community Development	596-2806
Public Works (Engineering, Highway, Water, Sewer)	596-2807
Police Department (Business)	596-3837
Police Department (TDD)	596-4357
Public Access Cable Studio	599-0940
Recreation Department	596-2816
Recycling Coordinator	596-2814
Recycling Information (E-Call Hotline)	800-800-6881
School Department (Superintendent)	596-3884
Selectmen	596-8111
Senior Center	543-8201
Tax Collector	596-2813
Tobacco Control Consortium	596-2824
Town Administrator	596-2805
Town Clerk	596-2809
Traffic Safety Program	596-2802
Trash Sticker and Landfill Information	596-2814
Treasurer	596-2812
Veteran's Agent	596-8111

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

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### TOWN GOVERNMENT

Wilbraham practices the traditional New England form of government, Open Town Meeting. Each spring Town Elections and the legislative branch of local government Annual Town Meeting are held. All registered voters may attend and speak at town meetings. At the Annual Town Meeting registered voters act on the town budget, by-law and municipal fee changes, and policy changes. All fiscal appropriations must be approved by Town Meeting before any money is expended. Occasionally, Special Town Meetings are held, usually in the fall. Citizen participation is vital to effective town government. The Wilbraham town government is granted its authority by the state constitution, state statutes and local by-law. Major functions of town government include: providing public safety, public education, town water and sewer, and public works; assessing, billing and collecting local taxes; registering voters and supervising elections; issuing licenses and permits; and enforcing building and sanitation codes.

### **Board of Selectmen**

The Town has three elected selectmen who serve for staggered terms of three years and act as the Town's chief administrative officers. The board meets weekly throughout most of the year. The Town Administrator supervises daily municipal services and activities. Any questions, comments or problems should be directed to the Selectmen's Office (596-8111).

### **Town Committees**

Appointed volunteer committees have a vital and irreplaceable role in town government. The committees have budget preparation, policy development, town by-law and state code enforcement and advisory responsibilities. The Annual Town Report lists all elected and appointed officials and meeting times for town boards and committees. All meetings are open to the public. The town welcomes citizen participation. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Selectmen's office (596-8111) and/or complete a Citizen Participation Form.

### **Annual Town Report**

The Annual Town Report is available to all town residents in the Spring. It includes information on activities of town officers, boards, committees, and departments; minutes of annual and special town meetings; records of elections; a list of community organizations; and vital town statistics. Copies are available at the Town Office Building and the Public Library.

### **Town By-Laws**

Town By-Laws are the ordinances, rules and regulations that guide municipal administration and conduct, guarantee public safety, establish policies and fees, regulate the use of land and buildings, and protect the rights of the town and individuals. For information about the General By-Law contact the Town Clerk (596-2809). For information about the Zoning By-Law contact the Town Planner (596-2806). For information about the Wetland's By-Law contact the Conservation Commission (596-8111).

## TOWN BILLING INFORMATION

### Property Tax and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax

The primary forms of local taxes are the property tax and motor vehicle excise tax. The property tax rate is set annually by an elected three-member Board of Assessors and bills are sent quarterly. The motor vehicle excise tax is set at 2.5% or \$25 per \$1,000 of automobile value by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts state legislature. Motor Vehicle Excise bills are mailed in the Spring. For tax abatement forms and to report any changes in your motor vehicle registration contact the Assessor's Office at Town Office Building (596-2817).

### Town Sewer and Town Water

Town water and sewer bills are both calculated on the basis of water consumption as measured on the water meter. Sewer bills for homes that are not connected to the town water system are based on the average for the entire Town. For more information contact the Engineering Department in the Town Office Building (596-2807).

### Solid Waste Disposal

***All residents are required to pay the solid waste disposal fee.*** A window sticker will be issued when the fee is paid. The sticker is required to access the Disposal and Recycling Center located on Boston Road. There is a discount for payments made by mail and for senior citizens. Contact the Recycling Coordinator for more information (596-2814).

### Billing Schedule

The following information is a general billing schedule for the town's major tax and utility bills. ***Payments are due 30 days after the bills are mailed. Overdue accounts may be assessed a late fee and charged interest.*** Contact the Tax Collector's Office for general information (596-2813) or the appropriate department for specific information.

<b><u>Approximate Mailing Date</u></b>	<b><u>Bill</u></b>	<b><u>Department</u></b>
June 30	First Quarterly Real Estate Tax	Assessor
August 31	Solid Waste Disposal	Tax Collector
September 30	Second Quarterly Real Estate Tax	Assessor
November 1	Semi-annual Water and Sewer Bills	Public Works
December 31	Third Quarterly Real Estate	Assessor
March 31	Fourth Quarterly Real Estate	Assessor
April 1	Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	Assessor
May 1	Semi-annual Water and Sewer Bills	Public Works



## **SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING**

*The town does not provide curbside pickup of household waste or recycling materials.* The Wilbraham Disposal and Recycling Center (2720 Boston Road) accepts bags (up to 30 gallons) of household waste and recycling material. Wilbraham Rubbish Service provides a private curbside pick up service (595-9276). *All residents are required to purchase a vehicle window sticker (by paying the Solid Waste Disposal Fee) which allows access to the Disposal and Recycling Center.* There is also a per-bag charge for household waste. *All bags brought to the Disposal and Recycling Center and bags picked up at the curb by a private service are required to have a bag sticker affixed.*

Vehicle window stickers and bag stickers may be purchased from the Treasurer/Collector's Office, the Selectmen's Office and the Council On Aging office at the Senior Center. Bag stickers are also available at the Public Library on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Contact the Recycling Coordinator for more information (596-2814).

### **Transfer Station/Recycling Center Operating Hours**

Closed Monday, Thursday year round

Winter Hours: 9/1 - 4/30: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 7:30-3:00 p.m.

Summer Hrs: 5/1 - 8/31: Tuesday, Friday, Saturday 7:30-3:00 p.m., Wednesday Noon-7:30 p.m.

Spring/Fall Clean-up: first two Saturday's in May, first two Saturdays in November

### **Recycling By-Law**

At the June 25, 1990 Special Town Meeting, town residents approved a mandatory recycling by-law. This includes, but may not be limited to, the following material: newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, batteries, metals, glass, cans, and plastic milk containers. Recycling materials may be dropped at the Disposal and Recycling Center for no charge if the vehicle has a window sticker.

### **Yard Cleaning**

The Wilbraham Disposal and Recycling Center accepts yard waste including grass clippings, leaves and brush. There are also areas for paint and small metal material (appliances, bikes, grills, etc.) to be dropped off. Please be aware that there are specific times of the year that these materials may be dropped off and a window sticker is required for access to the Center. ***Aerosol cans of paint and any appliances with freon ,including refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and de-humidifiers, are not accepted.***

### **Waste Motor Oil**

Massachusetts General Law states that used motor oil must be returned to the original purchase place. There are also businesses in Wilbraham that accept any motor oil regardless of where it was purchased. Contact the Recycling Coordinator for more information.(596-2814)

### **Burn Permits**

Residents may burn brush by special permit issued by the Fire Chief at the Fire Department at 2770 Boston Road (596-3122). Burning is permitted only from January 15 to April 30. Massachusetts state law prohibits the burning of leaves, trash and building materials.

## **VOTING & ELECTIONS**

Residents register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office in the Town Office Building. Massachusetts General Law mandates a registration deadline prior to elections. For more information contact the Town Clerk (596-2809).

<u>Registered Voters:</u>	Total - 8364		
Democrats -	2626	Republican -	1990
Unenrolled -	3728	Other -	20

The Town is divided into four precincts for voting purposes. To determine what precinct you vote in contact the Town Clerk's office in the Town Office Building (596-2809).

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Voting Location</u>	<u>Address</u>
A	Senior Center	88 Stony Hill Road
B	Mile Tree School	625 Main Street
C	Memorial School	310 Main Street
D	Soule Road School	300 Soule Road

## **ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS**

Board of Selectmen/Board of Health	Town Clerk
Moderator	Board of Assessors
Regional School Committee	Tree Warden
Cemetery Commissioners	Water Commissioners
Library Trustees	Planning Board
Wilbraham Housing Authority	

## **PETS & ANIMALS**

Town by-law and state statutes require that household pets (dogs and cats) must be vaccinated against rabies and that all dogs be licensed. Dog licenses are obtained from the Town Clerk's office in Town Office Building. The dog licensing period is April 1st- June 31st. (596-2809).

The Town's "Leash Law" states that dog owners must not allow their animals to roam free. To report a missing dog or other animal problems contact the Dog Officer (596-2006).

## **PUBLIC ACCESS CABLE TELEVISION CHANNEL**

Channel 46 is Wilbraham's local cable channel. The channel provides information on community events and activities, airs locally produced programs and provides training for residents to learn how to produce television shows. The station is located at the "Little Red School House" at 26 Springfield Street (599-0940).

Cable service is provided by Charter Communications (formerly Greater Media). For hook-ups, service changes or connections call (583-5171)

### **LICENSES & PERMITS**

Various projects, events and activities require permits under Massachusetts General Law and/or Town By-Law. Most license and permit applications can be obtained at Town Office Building (596-8111). The following is a partial list of permits and licenses:

**Building Department:**

Home Construction and Renovation  
Roof Replacement  
Home Siding  
Window Replacement  
Signs  
Pools and Pool fencing  
Wood Stoves  
Sheds

**Selectmen's Office:**

Entertainment  
Liquor  
Food Service  
Block Parties  
Parades  
Special Events  
Banners

### **FEDERAL, STATE & COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

The Town Report lists the names and addresses of Wilbraham's elected Federal, State and County officials.

Wilbraham is located in Hampden County; the City of Springfield is the county seat. County-wide functions include the Registry of Deeds and Probate and Family Court, located in the Hampden County Hall of Justice, 50 State Street, Springfield (748-8600).

For state government, call the Citizen Information Line operated by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, at 1-800-392-6090. The Registry of Motor Vehicles operates a regional office in Springfield at 165 Liberty Street and a "License Express" office at the Fairfield Mall in Chicopee.

### **MAIL**

The Wilbraham Post Office is located at Post Office Park, off Boston Road. Call 596-3146 for information.

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## PUBLIC SAFETY

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All Emergencies*	911	Rape/Sexual Assault Hotline	596-2100
Police Department	596-3837	Fire Department	596-3122
Police Department (TDD)	596-4357	Ambulance	596-2273

\*Please use the "596" numbers for non-emergencies. If you are not sure if a situation is an emergency dial 9-1-1.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is located at 16 Main Street. The Department issues pistol permits and Firearms Identification Cards. The grant-funded D.A.R.E. program offers education and activities in the schools to reduce the use of drugs and promote positive activities. The Community Policing Program conducts a Citizen's Police Academy and Public Education Programs. For Police Department information please call 596-3837.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department, a full - time Department with 20 Firefighters/Emergency Medical Technicians, which also operates the town's Ambulance Service, is located at 2770 Boston Road. The Fire Prevention Officer conducts safety inspections of homes, fuel storage tanks and special events. The grant funded S.A.F.E. program offers public education promoting fire prevention and safety. Outdoor burning and brush is allowed by permit, as weather allows between mid-January and April first. For more information please call 596-3122.

### LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) develops community plans to respond to fires, floods, weather emergencies and disasters. The committee strongly encourages people who have special needs (wheelchair, hearing problem, blindness or other disability) to complete a Special Needs Questionnaire. A copy of the form is included in the Wilbraham Women's Club Telephone Directory or directly from the LEPC. The information provided is confidential and will be used to plan for emergency assistance to those residents. For more information contact the LEPC (596-3122).

### HAMPDEN COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

The regional traffic safety program, grant funded by the Governor's Safety Highway Bureau, is located in the Board of Selectmen's office. The goal of the program is to reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities. The program offers educational activities on issues related to bicycle, pedestrian, school bus and traffic safety. For information contact the Program Director at 596-2802.

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## EDUCATION and SCHOOLS

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### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In 1994 the residents of Wilbraham and Hampden voted to unite their school systems to form the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District. The Regional District School Committee consists of seven members. The district includes seven schools and one central administration building connected to the high school. *Additional information about schools, programs and policies are included at the end of this Guide.*

Wilbraham students attend the following schools:

Memorial School	K-3
Mile Tree School	1-3
Stony Hill School	2-6
Soule Road School	3-5
Wilbraham Middle School	6-8
Minnechaug Regional High School	9-12

A comprehensive information sheet is available from the Selectmen's Office. For more information contact the School District offices at 621 Main Street (596-3884).

### DAY CARE PROVIDERS & NURSERY SCHOOLS

For child care information and referral contact the Preschool Enrichment Team located in Springfield (736-3900). This service is available to residents of Hampden county for a voluntary fee. The Annual Town Report lists nursery schools located in Wilbraham.

### PRIVATE SCHOOL

Wilbraham has one private school. The campus of Wilbraham & Monson Academy, a private co-ed college preparatory school for grades 7-12, is located in the center of Town (596-6811).

## 1998-99 Facts About Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Paula R. Tingle  
Chairperson  
Mr. Douglas F. Boyd  
Vice-Chairperson  
Dr. Joel A. Berman  
Mrs. Pamela C. Burch  
Mr. Richard W. Grono  
Mrs. Lois R. Megliola

### SCHOOLS: 7

Green Meadows (PreK/K-3)  
Memorial (K-3)  
Mile Tree (1-3)  
Soule Road (3-5)  
Thornton Burgess Middle  
(4-8)  
Wilbraham Middle (6-8)  
Minnechaug Reg. High  
(9-12)

**ENROLLMENT:** 3,607

**BUSSED:** 3,300

**BUDGET:** \$22,427,364

**PER PUPIL COST:** \$5,772

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

On the ITBS and State  
Assessments. students perform

*Reading Avg.: 72.6*

*Math Avg.: 73.8*

### SCHOOLS:

The district facilities consist of seven schools and one central administration building connected to the high school. Five of the school buildings are located in Wilbraham and two buildings, Green Meadows School and Thornton Burgess Middle

### HAMPDEN WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 1997-98

#### *History of the District:*

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District (K-12) began operation on July 1, 1994. Prior to that time the district was divided into three separate districts: Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District (Minnechaug Regional High School - 9-12), Wilbraham Public Schools (K-8), and Hampden Public Schools (K-8). There are approximately 3,503 students enrolled in the district. The district is a member of the Metco program that enrolls inner-city minority students from Springfield.

The two neighboring towns in the district are suburban communities that border the city of Springfield. Hampden is the smaller of the two communities.

The residents of Hampden and Wilbraham voted to join together to build a united school system with a commitment to provide equity and excellence in school programs in grades kindergarten through twelve. The Regional District School Committee consists of seven members, two of whom are residents of the town of Hampden, and five of whom are residents of the town of Wilbraham.

### District Officials:

Dr. Brenda S. Dietrich  
Superintendent of  
Schools  
621 Main Street  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
(413) 596 - 3884/3885

Dr. Anne Towle  
Assistant Superintendent  
(413) 596 - 3884/3885

Mr. Richard Scortino  
Director of Business  
Services  
(413) 596 - 3884/3885

Mr. Thomas Philpott  
Director of Student  
Services  
85 Wilbraham Rd.  
Hampden, MA  
(413) 566-8814

### Minnechaug Regional High School

621 Main St.  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
(413) 596-9011

Grades 9-12

Minnechaug Regional High School is a comprehensive high school serving students from Hampden and Wilbraham in grades 9 - 12. In 1998 there are 1134 students at the high school.

The graduating class of 1998 consisted of 230 graduates of which 81% were accepted and attended college. Many of those students were admitted to highly competitive colleges and universities including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U. S. Military Academy at West Point,

**STAFF:**

Professional: 268  
Adv. Degrees: 183  
Support Services: 187

**BUILDING****ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. T. Jeffrey Sullivan  
Green Meadows  
Elementary Principal  
(413) 566-3263

Dr. Ruth M. Tichenor  
Memorial Elementary  
Principal  
(413) 596-6821

Mrs. M. Jane Leone  
Mile Tree Elementary  
Principal  
(413) 596-6921

Mr. John F. Cavanaugh  
Soule Road Elementary  
Principal  
(413) 596-9311

Mr. Noel P. Pixley  
Thornton Burgess Middle  
Principal  
(413) 566-3931

Mr. Robert A. Dionne  
Wilbraham Middle  
Principal  
(413) 596-9061

Mr. Robert A. Johnson  
Minnechaug Regional  
High Principal  
(413) 596-9011

Ithaca College, Vanderbilt  
University, and Colgate University.

Seven students received National  
Merit Letters of Commendation.

The program of studies at  
Minnechaug prepares students to  
make the transition to and meet the  
demands of college level academic  
work or further study.

The Guidance Department is  
staffed with four full-time  
counselors and has the services of a  
clinical psychologist on a  
consulting basis.

Eighty-nine percent of the staff  
at Minnechaug hold Master  
Degrees and three staff members  
have Ph.D.'s.

Minnechaug has 293,000 square  
feet, consisting of 93 classrooms and  
specialized laboratories, studios,  
offices, a swimming pool, two  
gymnasiums and two cafeterias. The  
library is automated and includes  
over 25,000 volumes, electronic  
references, periodicals, and  
audiovisual materials.

SAT Scores over the past 5 years  
have, as a class average, ranged from  
a high of 543 to a low of 512 on the  
Verbal and a high of 537 to a low of  
519 on the Math component.

**Wilbraham Middle School**

466 Stony Hill Rd.  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
(413) 596-9061

each grade level and are housed in  
separate parts of the building.  
Each team consists of 3 or 4  
academic teachers and 1 special  
education teacher who form the  
interdisciplinary team that delivers  
instruction to the students  
throughout the school year.

Wilbraham Middle School was  
originally built in 1968 as a junior  
high building. It was constructed  
on 63 acres, has two gymnasiums,  
large library, foods lab, four fully  
equipped science labs, a computer  
lab, wood shop, as well as an  
auditorium that is utilized by the  
school and community.  
Wilbraham Middle School has  
approximately 48 full-time  
teaching staff, a principal, and an  
assistant principal.

Wilbraham Middle School follows a  
middle school philosophy that  
students should be given an  
opportunity to "explore" many related  
arts courses during their middle years  
and that students are given an  
opportunity to have their social needs  
met through an Advisory Program.  
Additionally, students are expected to  
complete a research paper, master  
algebraic concepts, expend a  
significant amount of time on  
homework as an extension of the  
classroom, and use technology in  
meaningful ways.

ITBS Scores this past year  
averaged in the 76th percentile in all  
areas. Students typically score  
above the national norms and grade  
level expectations on standardized  
tests.

**Grades 6-8**

Wilbraham Middle School serves  
students in Wilbraham in Grades  
6-8. In 1998 there are 640 students in  
the Middle School. Students are  
divided into teams in

**Soule Road School**  
300 Soule Road  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
(413) 596-9311

Gr. 3-5

Soule Road School was built in 1970 and called a Transitional School specifically for students in Grades 4-6. In the 1980's Soule Rd. School became a grade 3-5 school and follows that same grade configuration today. There are 477 students at Soule Road School in 1998.

Soule Rd. School has 21 regular classrooms with an open courtyard in the center of the building where an annual migration of ducks make their home each year. The building has a science lab where students are taught "hands-on" science with a specialist, one gymnasium that can be used as a multi-purpose gymnasium, a library media center, and a cafeteria available for special programs and to serve hot lunches daily to students. All classrooms have Macintosh computers and have access to the internet. The media center has six computers, which assist students in their research. There are more than 30 individuals on the instructional staff, with a part-time guidance counselor, the services of a psychologist on a consulting basis, special education resource rooms and staff, a music room and art room, and a health nurse and aide.

ITBS scores have averaged in the 80th percentile in Grades 4 and 5 over the past few years. Students receive homework on a regular basis and participate in many project-oriented learning activities in their classrooms.

**Memorial School**  
310 Main Street  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
(413) 596-6821

Grades Pr-K-3

Memorial School is the oldest school building in operation in the Hampden - Wilbraham Regional School District, having been built in 1950. It currently consists of Grades Pre-K through Grade 3. In 1998 there are 490 students at Memorial Elementary. All Kindergartners in Wilbraham attend school at Memorial.

Memorial School has 17 regular classrooms, a music room, art room, science lab staffed by a science specialist, special education resource room, and a Reading Recovery Room. Students in grade one who have been identified as at-risk readers are given either individual reading instruction with a trained Reading Recovery teacher for 30 minutes each day or are given support in a literacy group. Memorial also has a staffed library with a 6-station computer lab, a gymnasium, cafeteria, and nurse/health aide. A school psychologist is also available for students. All kindergarten classrooms have an aide.

All staff are involved in continuous professional development to enhance learning. The curriculum at Memorial School is based on a strong emphasis on literacy and reading skills and number sense. Students are exposed to a variety of learning methods, but the content is consistent throughout the district. Strong parent involvement and support are hallmarks of the school.

**Mile Tree School**  
625 Main St.  
Wilbraham, MA 01095  
(413) 596-6921

Grades 1-3

Mile Tree School was built in 1963. It is the smallest building in the district with only 12 regular classrooms. There are 193 students at Mile Tree in 1998.

Mile Tree has a science lab classroom with a science specialist, a multi-purpose room that serves as a cafeteria, auditorium, and gymnasium. There is also an art room that shares space with Art and Music. Mile Tree has a small library and 5-station computer lab as well as space for special education resource teachers and the nurse/health aide. Mile Tree students was one of the first groups in the district to be able to access the Internet on their Macintosh computers this year. Technology is an integral part of the school program at Mile Tree.

You will find the same programs and curriculum in place at Mile Tree as at Memorial School. Mile Tree is somewhat unique in that only Grades 1-3 are housed in the building, but there are many special programs and opportunities for the students at Mile Tree throughout the year.

**Green Meadows School**  
38 North Road  
Hampden, MA 01036  
(413) 566-3263

Grades PreK/K-3

Green Meadows was built in 1957 and renovated in 1989. In 1997-98 Green Meadows had Pre-School through Grade 3 classes, with fourth grade being relocated to



Thornton Burgess due to lack of space at Green Meadows.

Green Meadows, having been recently renovated, currently has a large gymnasium, fully equipped cafeteria, library with a small computer lab, 15 regular classrooms, a special education resource room, and a Science room. Green Meadows has 298 students in Grades PreK/K-3 in 1998. All kindergartners in Hampden attend school at Green Meadows.

Green Meadows has all the same curriculum programs, supplies and staff that you would find at Memorial and Mile Tree in Wilbraham. Green Meadows was one of the first schools in the district to have the Reading Recovery Program for first graders, and to be cabled for networking computers in October 1996. Students can access the Internet on Macintosh computers and have many opportunities to be exposed to a variety of software applications. Green Meadows has an organized support group of parents that volunteer many hours to enriching the program of studies for students.

**Thornton W. Burgess Middle School**  
85 Wilbraham Road  
Hampden, MA 01036 (413)  
566-3931 FAX 566-2163

Grades: 4-8

Thornton Burgess Middle School was built in 1967. It is located on Wilbraham Road across from the Hampden Country Club. In 1998, Thornton Burgess has 387 students enrolled in Grades 4-8.

Thornton Burgess students in Grades 4 and 5 utilizes the same materials, resources, and

curriculum as the other elementary schools in the district. Students have a regular classroom teacher and special teachers in Art, Music, Physical Education, and Science. Science will be taught both in a lab with a science "specialist" and in the regular classroom. Fourth and fifth graders are in a "school within a school" environment, separated from the middle school students by physical distance as well as by scheduling practices. There is a strong academic focus on reading comprehension and number sense. All classrooms have Macintosh computers and printers.

The middle school students (Grades 6-8) are arranged according to the team concept with an advisor/advisee opportunity each day and a variety of related arts classes.

Students at Thornton Burgess have access to a computer lab, gymnasium, cafetorium, science labs, large library, wood shop, foods lab, music room, and art room. All middle school students are expected to be able to access information through technology, complete a research project, master algebraic concepts, and devote a significant amount of time to homework. Additionally, seventh and eighth grade students have the opportunity to take Spanish for high school credit.

Thornton Burgess has the services of a full-time guidance counselor, nurse/health aide, school psychologist, and 24 teaching staff. ITBS scores this past year averaged in the 70th percentile in all areas. Students usually score above the national norms and grade level expectations on standardized tests.

## Transportation

Transportation is available, free of charge, to students who live in the Hampden-Wilbraham School District. We currently bus 3,300 students. The state of Massachusetts only requires a school district to transport those students who live one and one-half miles or more from his/her attendance area. The HWRSD often buses students within the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius because of the lack of adequate sidewalks and on the advice of the Town Safety Officer. There are some areas where students walk to school because there is a cross-walk and a crossing guard available for students.

## Class Size

Class size varies in all buildings, but we strive to keep our kindergarten and primary classrooms low. The district is growing, but this school year class sizes have ranged from 17-25 in Grades K-3. It is the goal of the HWRSD Committee to maintain low class sizes in our primary classrooms.

## Commitment to Quality

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District has a commitment to quality and a commitment to success for every student. These values can be seen in the School Improvement Plans, which provide a blueprint for school-based initiatives, strategies, and benchmarked standards. They can be seen in the School Site Councils, which serve as a monitor of continued improvement, and they can be seen in our district Strategic Plan and 5-year Technology Plan. This year we also have a District Improvement Plan based on input from the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Director of Business Services.

## Open Communication

Open communication in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District is highly valued.

Residents are encouraged to call or write to School Committee Members and the Superintendent of Schools when they have questions or comments. School Committee Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. During the year, information is provided through school newsletters, the local newspapers, and The Primer. Residents are encouraged to participate on building and District committees. Shared decision-making teams, with parent membership, are in place in all District schools. The Superintendent has a Parent Advisory Committee that meets each month and is open to all interested individuals. Community involvement has been and continues to be very important. Children in the HWRSD have benefited greatly from the support of a community which places a premium on quality education.

**MISSION:** To be a community of learners committed to developing productive and responsible world citizens within a safe, healthy environment.

## CORE VALUES

Learning is a life-long endeavor. Every individual is capable of learning and deserving of respect. Responsibility for education is vested in the individual, family, school, and community. Academic excellence is achievable in relation to individual potential and the needs of the whole child. Education must prepare learners to live and work in a complex, ever-changing global society. Improvement in the educational system is an on-going process of reflection, re-evaluation, and openness to change.

## **1998-99 School Committee Goals**

Continue to support the Building Project and facilitate the transition effort involved in moving students from Mile Tree to Stony Hill effective Fall 1999. Promote open and on-going communication with staff, students, and members of the community in order to keep the citizens of Hampden and Wilbraham informed and to keep the School Committee informed about the wishes of the public. Place particular focus on preparing the budget for FY2000 and its content. Resolve current financial difficulties and correct structural deficiencies in the budget process by working with administration and town committees. Create a functional, practical budget for FY2000 that supports initiatives in the areas of student achievement, assessment, technology and special services. Communicate regularly with town officials and citizens of both communities about the budget process, critical issues and the potential impact on programs, class sizes, services, and the overall school environment that certain levels of funding will dictate.

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES and PUBLIC HEALTH

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### INFORMATION & REFERRAL

There are a variety of community organizations that assist residents who are in need. Information and referral for any resident are available from the Council on Aging at the Senior Center (543-8201). The Annual Town Report lists many community and social service organizations. For Springfield area social service information call *First Call* at 737-2712.

### WILBRAHAM BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Selectmen also serves as the Board of Health. The Board of Health's primary responsibility is to protect the health of the public by creating policies and programs, performing health inspections, issuing permits and licenses and coordinating the reporting of communicable diseases. To report health concerns contact the Health Agent at the Town Office Building (596-8111).

### WILBRAHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging provides and coordinates services for seniors in Wilbraham. Programs include information and referral on food assistance, recreation and leisure activities, housing needs, support and counseling, nutrition, preventative health screening and medical equipment lending. The Council on Aging staff can also assist relatives of the elderly in meeting their needs.

The Council on Aging is located at the Senior Center (Pines Community Center) on Stony Hill Road. Most senior programs and services are provided there. Information about Meals-On-Wheels, elderly transportation and senior discounts can be obtained from the Council on Aging. Trash bag disposal stickers are also available at the Senior Center (543-8201).

### LOCAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Baystate Medical Center	759 Chestnut Avenue, Springfield	784-0000
Emergency & Trauma Service		784-3233
Mercy Hospital	271 Carew Street, Springfield	784-9000
Wing Memorial Hospital	40 Wright Street, Palmer	283-7651
Wing Medical Center	2377 Boston Road, Wilbraham	596-3455
Physician's Referral Service ( <i>The Professionals</i> )	1-800-377-HEALTH,	784-2255

## **WILBRAHAM YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO AND PUBLIC SMOKING REGULATIONS**

Effective May 1, 1995 Wilbraham established regulations to implement a strict and enforceable system to prevent the illegal sale of tobacco products to minors. These regulations were also developed to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in certain public places and to guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe smoke-free air.

Smoking is prohibited in enclosed public places in Wilbraham including, but not limited to, the following places:

Restaurants (except in designated areas)	Schools
Town government buildings and meeting areas	Libraries
Auditoriums	Retail food establishments

For more information contact the Tobacco Control Director in the Town Office Building (596-2824).

This department offers education to the community on tobacco-related issues, including youth access, environmental tobacco and smoke cessation.

## **VETERAN'S AGENT**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts offers Veterans Benefits separate from the Federal Veterans Administration. The local Veterans Agent, appointed annually by the Board of Selectmen, works under the direction of the Commissioner of Veterans Services and is governed by the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws and Department of Veterans Services Regulations 108 CMR 1.00 - 28.00. For more information please call 596-8111.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority provides bus service throughout the Pioneer Valley (Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton Area) for a fee. For more information call 781-PVTA. Schedules for Wilbraham routes are usually available in the Town Office Building.

The Senior Van provides transportation for the elderly and the disabled. Contact the Wilbraham Council on Aging at the Senior Center for more information (543-8201).

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## UTILITIES

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### TOWN WATER & SEWER

If your property is connected to the Town Water System or Sewer System you must contact the Engineering Department in the Town Office Building to have the service connected and registered in your name (596-2807).

Note: Water and sewer bills are assessed semi-annually, usually mailed in November and May. A billing schedule is included in this Guide on page \_\_\_\_.

### UTILITY & CABLE COMPANIES

Electric	Massachusetts Electric Company	1-800-322-3081
Natural Gas	Bay State Gas Company	781-9200
Phone (Installation)	Bell Atlantic	785-0500
Cable Television	Charter Communications	583-5171

### HOME HEATING OIL

There are several private companies that offer oil furnace installation and home heating oil delivery. Consult the *Yellow Pages* under "Oil" for a listing.

### FUEL ASSISTANCE

Fuel assistance information and referral for any resident can be received from the Council on Aging at the Senior Center (543-8201). Information about senior citizen discounts for fuel and cable television is also obtained from the Council on Aging.

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## **CULTURE, RECREATION & LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

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### **WILBRAHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The goal of the Recreation Department is to provide positive safe and enjoyable recreational activities for all residents. Youth programs include sports leagues and instructions, dance, painting, self-defense and special activities. Each summer the Adventure Program located at Spec Pond offers a variety of activities for boys and girls between 5 & 12 years of age. Adult programs include sports leagues, women's aerobics, self-defense, craft workshops, coaches training programs and trips and tours. Sports programs include soccer, basketball, football, tennis, golf, baseball, softball and volleyball. Call the Recreation Department for more information (596-2816). *Additional information about recreational activities and locations is included at the back of this guide.*

### **WILBRAHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Wilbraham Public Library, located at 25 Crane Park Drive, is an important center of community life. The library provides most services free of charge and offers over 60,000 volumes, over 100 periodicals, as well as audio cassettes, videos, CD-Roms puppets, multi-media kits and compact discs. Also available for public use are personal computers, for word processing, educational software, and games, photocopiers and on-line catalogs providing access to libraries across the state and to the Internet.

Special programs include children's storytimes and special events, author visits, book discussion group series, art exhibits, outreach services to nursing homes, the Senior Center, and homebound individuals, and book sales. The Friends of the Wilbraham library, Inc., support many of these activities and has a membership of about 500 residents. activities, author visits, a parenting center, outreach services to senior citizens, cultural activities and book sales. The Reference and Children's Librarians can assist with any type of question or concern. The library is the primary source for up-to-date information about town programs, the school system, community activities and current local events. The reference and children's staff can assist with questions in person, by phone or through e-mail. For more information contact the library 596-6141 or visit their homepage at <http://www.javanet.com/-wpl1/>.

### **SENIOR ACTIVITIES**

Most activities and programs for seniors in Wilbraham are coordinated through the Council On Aging located at the Senior Center (543-8201). Activities include educational programs, social events, dance, card and board games, craft workshops, musical programs and painting.

### **ATHENEUM SOCIETY**

The Atheneum Society of Wilbraham is a non-profit community organization that promotes activities relating to Wilbraham's history. The Old Meeting House, at 450 Main Street, is the oldest Methodist Meeting Houses still standing in New England. In 1979 it was designated a National Historic Landmark as part of the Academy Historic District and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Society utilizes part of the space as a museum that preserves Wilbraham's traditions and artifacts and celebrates the Town's past. A public lecture series is also coordinated by the Society. The museum is open to the public on the first Sunday of the month from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. May through December. Special exhibits are publicized in the local media. For more information write to the Atheneum Society at 450 Main Street, Wilbraham.

### **RECREATION & CONSERVATION AREAS**

Wilbraham offers a variety of areas for recreation including playing fields, playgrounds, trails, scenic areas, ponds, picnic areas and nature preserves. The following is a partial list of the major recreation and conservation areas. Contact the Town Planning Department for a complete list of conservation areas (596-2806). Contact the Recreation Department for a complete list of recreational areas (596-2816).

Spec Pond (Boston Road) - sports, playground equipment, fishing, swimming, picnic area

Pheasant Farm/Fountain Park (Tinkham Road) - nature area

Red Bridge (Red Bridge Road) - nature area

Bruuer Pond (Main Street) - picnic area, bird watching, nature area

Crane Park (Crane Park Drive) - picnic area

Brainard Park (Manchonis Road Ext.) - soccer, baseball, playground equipment,

Pines Community Center (88 Stony Hill Road) - soccer, playground equipment

Sevey Playground (675 Stony Hill Road ) - playground equipment

### **ANNUAL TOWN EVENTS**

Peach Festival - in August at Fountain Park

Christmas Tree Lighting - in December at Crane Park

Annual Bonfire - in December at Fountain Park

Band Concerts - during summer months at Fountain Park

### **HUNTING & FISHING**

Licenses for hunting and fishing must be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office in the Town Office Building (596-2809). Town By-Law states that hunting or discharging a firearm on town owned property is prohibited. Hunting on private property requires written permission from the property owner. Permission forms must be obtained from the Town Clerk. Contact the Town Clerk's Office for more specific information (596-2809).

### **SCANTIC VALLEY YMCA**

The Scantic Valley YMCA operates a satellite program of the Greater Springfield YMCA. Programs are offered for youth and adults at various places in the Wilbraham area. Activities include swimming, youth sports instruction, adult fitness and special programs. For more information contact the Greater Springfield YMCA (739-6951).

#### **WILBRAHAM TEEN CENTER**

The Teen Center, located at the Pines Community Center, 88 Stony Hill Road, is open on weekends for middle and high school students from Wilbraham and Hampden. This center offers safe environment to younger generations and gives them a chance to meet new faces. The program is coordinated by the Scantic Valley YMCA (739-6951).

#### **WILBRAHAM COUNTRY CLUB**

The Wilbraham Country Club is a private nine- hole golf course where town residents can play for a fee. Expansion plans are being made. It is located at 825 Stony Hill Road (596-8897).

#### **RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS**

The Wilbraham-Hampden Ecumenical Society is an organization representing churches in the Wilbraham and Hampden area. Call 596-8060 for more information.

#### **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

The Children's Museum is located at 678 Main Street (596-2472). Programs include play groups and activities for pre-school age children. The facility is also available for private use for a small rental fee.

#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Town government provides many opportunities to get involved. There are well over 125 volunteer committee members appointed by the Board of Selectmen who share their special talents on a committee in their field of expertise. Most appointments are made soon after the Annual Town Meeting, but vacancies do occur frequently throughout the year. The Annual Town Report lists all elected and appointed town officials, boards and committees. Ad hoc committees are appointed as the need arises. Contact the Selectmen's Office for more information (596-8111).

Other town- related organizations include Friends of the Library, Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Friends of Recreation, the Atheneum Society, and the Economic Development Council. The Annual Town Report lists these and other organizations that offer opportunities to get involved.

## **WILBRAHAM RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



The Recreation Department delivers a variety of programs and events for all age groups in the Wilbraham community. The professional staff is directed by a volunteer 7-member Recreation Commission, appointed by the Board of Selectmen in recognition of their interest and untiring efforts on behalf of all participants. Additional support comes from the Friends of Recreation, a volunteer organization of parents, coaches, and other interested residents.

### **Mission Statement**

#### **Wilbraham Recreation Commission**

*To provide wholesome recreational sports and activities that will enhance the positive social, emotional, physical, and overall development of all residents of the Town of Wilbraham. Such programs should attempt to meet the general needs of all the youth and adults of Wilbraham and should be conducted in a manner so as to assure a safe, enjoyable atmosphere, and learning experience.*

### **Spec Pond**

The Town of Wilbraham is proud to offer outstanding facilities at Spec Pond -- a fully operational pavilion with a kitchen adjacent to a picnic area with beachfront accessibility and a playground. Playing fields are available for football, baseball and basketball. We encourage everyone to stop by and experience Spec Pond.

### **Spec Pond Youth Adventure Program**

Spec Pond is the location of the Recreation Department's *Summer Adventure Program*, designed for boys and girls aged 5 - 12. The staff includes qualified counselors and certified lifeguards. The *Adventure Program* is conducted for six, one-week sessions, Monday - Friday, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. Extended hours are available until 5:00 PM. Activities include:

Sports and Games  
Arts and Crafts  
Game Room

Trips  
Special Events  
Recreational Swimming

### **Town Recreation Facilities and Locations**

***Spec Pond***

***Minnechaug High School***

2 Basketball Courts  
1 Football Field  
2 Baseball Fields  
(Bronco/Pony)  
Pavilion, Picnic Area, Beach  
Playground Equipment

***Soule Road School***

2 Baseball Fields  
(Little League/Softball)  
2 Basketball Courts  
Soccer Field  
Playground Equipment

***Brainard Park***

Soccer Field  
Baseball Field  
(Little League/Softball)  
Playground Equipment

***Wilbraham Community Center***

Soccer Field  
Playground Equipment

***Wilbraham & Monson Academy***

6 Tennis Courts

6 Tennis Courts  
4 Baseball Fields  
(Regulation and Little League/Softball)  
Basketball Court  
Soccer Field  
2 Volleyball Courts (sand)  
2 Bocce Courts

***Mile Tree School***

Baseball Field  
(Little League/Softball)  
Soccer Field  
Playground Equipment

***Memorial School***

2 Baseball Fields  
(Little League/Softball)  
Playground Equipment

***Wilbraham Middle School***

3 Soccer Fields

***Stony Hill School***

Playground Equipment

**Sampler of Activities and Sports Programs**

**Youth Programs**

Dance Programs (co-ed, toddler through adult)

Oil Painting (age 7 and up)  
Introduction to Self Defense (ages 8-14)  
Gym-Nee Crickets (co-ed, ages 7-11)  
Start Smart Sports Development Program (ages 3-5)

### **Teen and Adult Activities**

Women's "Street Safe" Self-Defense (age 18 and up)  
Women's Aerobics  
Craft Workshops  
NYSCA-Coaches Training Program

### **Trips and Tours**

Major League Baseball Games  
New York City - Broadway - Radio City Music Hall  
Shore Destinations  
Shopping Destinations  
Falcons Hockey Games

### **Sports Programs and League Play**

Town Soccer Leagues  
Boys and Girls Youth Summer Basketball Program  
Youth Suburban Basketball League  
Town Recreation Basketball Program  
Suburban Amateur Football League  
Youth Tennis Program  
Junior Golf Clinic  
Youth Baseball and T-Ball Leagues  
Youth Girls Softball League  
Adult Softball Leagues  
Women's Volleyball League